

The Historacle

The Official Newsletter of the

Talent Historical Society

"Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past."

206 East Main, Suite C • P.O. Box 582 • Talent, Oregon 97540 • 541/512-8838

December 2002



JESSE JAMES REVISITED

Due to its popularity a year or so ago, an exhibit featuring the life of Jesse James has again drawn in record numbers to the Talent Historical Society. This exhibit deals with the discrepancies in the generally accepted story of the life and death of Jesse James. Most of the visitors have noted that the man in the so-called "death photo" doesn't look much like the pictures of a living Jesse. A few visitors have related their stories of Jesse's life post-1882. All told, the exhibit has been interesting for both visitors and staff.

EXHIBIT IDEAS WANTED

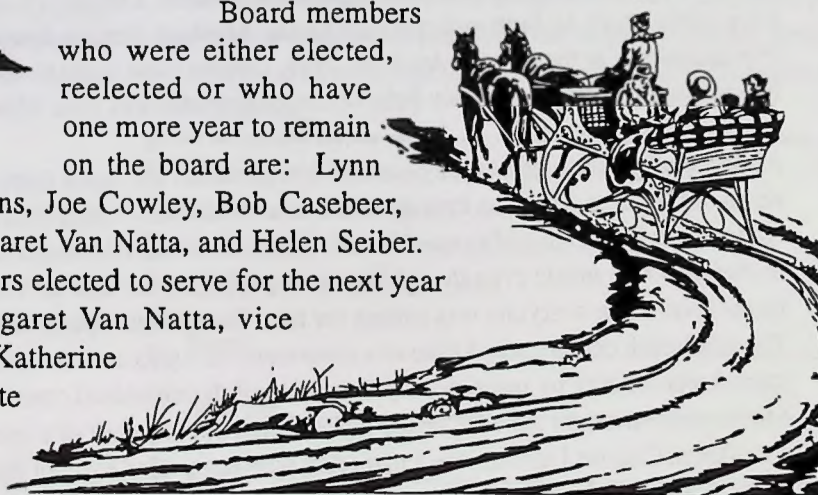
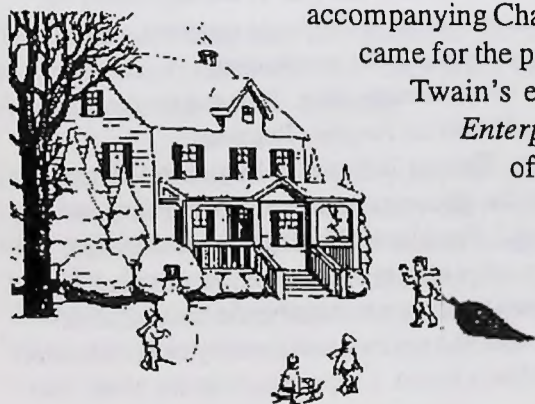
If you have an idea for an exhibit, or have a collection of some antique items that you feel would make an interesting exhibit, please call or come by the THS office and talk to Alice Ray about your ideas. Anything on Talent history, or collections belonging to a Talent pioneer or early settler will be given first priority.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our annual membership meeting, with its accompanying Chautauqua program, proved to be a pleasant time. Thirty-six people came for the program, "We Pine For Murder," a look at journalist/author Mark Twain's early years working as a reporter for the *Nevada Territorial Enterprise*. According to Andrew Giarelli, lecturer, Twain's methods of reporting never let facts stand in the way of a good story. It sounded as though Twain would have felt right at home on the staff of the *National Enquirer*.

Board members who were either elected, reelected or who have one more year to remain on the board are: Lynn

Newbry, John Morrison, Ralph Hunkins, Joe Cowley, Bob Casebeer, Katherine Harris, Alice Burnette, Margaret Van Natta, and Helen Seiber. At the November board meeting, officers elected to serve for the next year are: John Morrison, president; Margaret Van Natta, vice president; Ralph Hunkins, treasurer; Katherine Harris, secretary; Helen Seiber, alternate director.



STRANGE 6TH GRADE ANSWERS TO HISTORY QUESTIONS

NOTE: The following answers to historical questions presumably posed to 6th grades students was extracted from the Eugene, Oregon, Masonic Lodge newsletter. Debra and Mike Burke, editors secured the document over the Internet from Don Hosek (donhosek@earthlink.net). Obviously, the original compiler had kept these unique answers over years of instruction. The answers shed light on the problems of historical instruction, a concentration on factual regurgitation rather than on process and on the sweeping forces on which historical events float. The spelling and poor comprehension of words used in the instructional process are evident—in fact, much of the humor lies in these areas. One wonders about whether the initial instruction was geared verbally to the vocabulary level of the sixth grade students, and can only conclude that perhaps the teachers involved were as much to blame as the inadequate understanding displayed by the students.

1. Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert. The climate of the Sarah is such that all the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.
2. Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments. He died before he reached Canada.
3. Solomon had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines.
4. The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a female moth.
5. Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock. After his death, his career suffered a dramatic decline.
6. In the Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled biscuits, and threw the java.
7. Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Dying, he gasped out, "Tee hee, Brutus."
8. Joan of Arc was burnt to a steak and was canonized by Bernard Shaw.
9. Queen Elizabeth was the "Virgin Queen." As a queen she was a success. When she exposed herself before her troops, they all shouted "hurrah."
10. Gutenberg invented removable type and the Bible. Another important invention was the circulation of blood. Sir Walter Raleigh is a historical figure because he invented cigarettes and started smoking. Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper.
11. The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare. He was born in the year 1564, supposedly on his birthday. He never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He wrote tragedies, comedies, and hysterectomies, all in Islamic pentameter. Romeo and Juliet are an example of a heroic couple.
12. Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miguel Cervantes. He wrote Donkey Hote. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote Paradise Lost. Then his wife died and he wrote Paradise Regained.
13. Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backwards and declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand." Franklindied in 1790 and is still dead.
14. Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves by signing the Emasculation Proclamation. On the night of April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to the theater and got shot in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. They believe the assassinator was John Wilkes Booth, a supposingly insane actor. This ruined Booth's career.
15. Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handel was half German, half Italian, and half English. He was very large.
16. Bethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.
17. The nineteenth century was a time of a great many thoughts and inventions. People stopped reproducing by hand and started reproducing by machine. The invention of the steamboat caused a network of rivers to spring up. Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormic raper, which did the work of a hundred men. Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbits. Charles Darwin was a naturalist who wrote the Organ of the Species. Madman Curie discovered the radio. And Karl Marx became one of the Marx Brothers.

BRIC-A-BRAC

Featured item from the THS Sales Shoppe.



"We took the route for Rogue River Valley, Southern Oregon, leaving the Humboldt eighty miles above the sink. After crossing the Sierra Nevada Mountains, we passed by a lake of considerable size, and pitched our tents upon its eastern shore. Some of the company discovered among the rushes near the margin, an Indian canoe, containing long spears, headed with bone, and several other primitive implements for catching fish, with quite a pile of the game itself, freshly caught. The poor fishermen, alarmed at our approach, had concealed themselves. The persons who made the discovery, took all the fish; and so far from leaving an equivalent, they were only, by considerable remonstrance, hindered from destroying the boat and implements, which would have been an incalculable loss to the tribe, as, with their rude instruments, it must have been an immense labor to make them; and want and starvation might have ensued, before they could have been supplied with others.

"Happy should I be, if the memory of these scenes, and of that journey, did not remind me of so many circumstances which I would rather forget than repeat. But since whatever is done by the Indians, though in self-defense, is published all over the land, as savage barbarity, for which nothing short of extermination is recommended and sought, it is but common justice to state a few things which have been done against them by those who claim to be so much their superiors."

This excerpt is taken from John Beeson's book, "A Plea For the Indians," which we now have copies of for sale in our Sales Shoppe. Also just in is Barbara Hegne's new book "Wild True Tales," stories of southern Oregon's early settlers. For great Christmas gifts we have some beautiful polished agate slabs, some with designs in pewter, and some that are candle holders, and some very nice western bolo ties. When you are Christmas shopping come in and check out our Sales Shoppe. Gift certificates for memberships are also available.

Welcome!

THS welcomed some new members into the Society in the past couple of months. They are: **Mary Ferrari, Alice Levey, and Donna Thomas.**

Donna Thomas, of DT Services, is our new bookkeeper. Since there is currently only one part-time staff person, the Board felt that it would help with the workload to hire a bookkeeper. Donna Thomas was selected and has been great to work with. We highly recommend her to anyone who needs bookkeeping services.

Elizabeth Hall is our newest volunteer at THS. She also volunteers as a Pink Lady at the Ashland Community Hospital. Elizabeth will be in the museum on the second Thursday of the month to free up the office staff to go to the JCHMA meeting. We are so happy to have Elizabeth join us!



We are considering scheduling a few sightseeing trips for the THS membership who live in the Rogue Valley, but would like to know whether or not there is enough interest before we get serious about renting vans and scheduling trips. A few places we could go in one easy day are: Klamath Falls museums/Ft. Klamath; Yreka museum, historic old town, historic homes tour; Applegate Trail Museum at Sunny Valley. If there is enough interest in longer, 2-day trips there are lots of places to explore both in Oregon and No. California. If you're interested, please let us know by phone, visit, note, or by clipping out the box on the right and mailing it to THS.

☐ Yes! I'm interested in going on a museum tour.

Send more information, please.

☐ Maybe, I'd have to know more about it.

☐ No, sorry, not interested.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

TALENT BIOGRAPHIES

WILLIAM PATTERSON—EARLY TALENT SAWMILLER

William Patterson, Talent pioneer of 1862, was one of the first men to operate a sawmill up Wagner Creek. He was the son of Joshua Patterson who in 1862 removed from Iowa to Talent and bought a farm. Joshua engaged in farming and stock-raising to support his eight children.

His son William was educated in the public schools of Ohio, and in 1854 went to Michigan, removing to Iowa in 1859. There he heard much about the west and was determined to cast his fortunes with the west's growing prosperity.

He left Iowa in May 1861, coming by way of the Oregon Trail. In present Idaho, he took the Lander's Cut Off on the Snake River, then went down the Humboldt River in what is now Northern Nevada, and through the Shasta Valley to the Rogue River Valley and Talent. Here he remained on his father's farm until 1866, in the mean-time supplementing his rather meager education with a course of study at the nearby public school.

In 1866, he began sawmilling on his own responsibility at age 21, erecting a sawmill on Wagner Creek and later conducting a similar operation on Big Butte Creek up the Rogue River. Subsequently, he moved his sawmill operation to the North Umpqua River near present Idleld Park, where the only local postoffice was named Patterson Mill, a name that the present Glide area bore until 1890. Patterson operated that mill for a couple of years, then sold out to Meshak Tipton and returned to the Rogue River Valley. He moved to Ashland, and followed the carpenter's and builder's trade for many years. He also was interested in mining in Siskiyou County, California, but gave up these combined interests to become the Superintendent of the Ashland Water Works, the original water system for the city of Ashland.

He assumed that responsibility in 1900 and with ample opportunity to demonstrate his managerial and general abilities, enlarged the water works, had new machinery placed and by 1904 had provided Ashland residents with a water system which was the most modern in Southern Oregon. The water was brought from Ashland Creek (a stream originally known as Mill Creek), being conveyed to the city with large steel pipes

with every effort made to insure a pure and clean water supply as well as providing sufficient supply for both residents and business interests.

William Patterson was born near LaFayette, Ashland County, Ohio, May 10, 1845, the son of the aforementioned Joshua Patterson and his wife Catherine. He married Annie E. Clift, a Canadian, and six children were born into the family. William Patterson's brothers and sisters scattered all over the West Coast—brother John in Riverside, California; brother George in San Francisco, brother Joseph in Portland, brothers B. F. and Lair in San Diego, California; brother Frederick in Mariposa County, California. His brother Joshua Patterson became a Jackson County commissioner, and his brother Sylvester a sheriff here in Jackson County.

William Patterson was well-known as a carpenter and builder, lumberman, miner, and water superintendent in the Talent area.

The **Historacle** is published quarterly by the
Talent Historical Society

P.O. Box 582 / 206 E. Main Street
Talent Community Center • Talent, Oregon 97540

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	John Morrison
Vice President	Margaret Van Natta
Secretary	Katherine Harris
Treasurer	Ralph Hunkins
Directors	Alice Burnette
	Bob Casebeer
	Joe Cowley
	Lynn Newbry
Alternate	Helen Seiber

MUSEUM STAFF

Interim Museum Director	Alice Ray
Volunteer Office Assistants	Ralph Hunkins
	Lorraine Mussack
Volunteer Coordinator	Katherine Harris

TITLED VOLUNTEERS

Curator/Registrar	Rosemary Bevel
Oral Historians	Joe Cowley
Photographers	Steve Ray/Majestic West
Newsletter Layout/	
Graphic Design	Alice Ray/Majestic West

Comments & letters may be sent to the Editor, **The Historacle**, by mail or by e-mail talenthistory@aol.com. Members of the Society receive **The Historacle** free with membership.

JUDGE JAMES R. NEIL OBITUARY:

NEIL CREEK, EAST OF ASHLAND, BEARS THE FAMILY NAME

There is universal mourning among the pioneers and older residents of the county over the loss of Judge Neil, so long prominent in public affairs and in politics.

The late Judge Neil was one of six children who crossed the plains with an ox team with their parents, the late Claiborne Neil and wife, in 1853. They joined a company of fifty people, captained by Rev. T.H. Small. Travelling thru Kentucky and Illinois to Missouri, the party spent the winter at St. Joseph, leaving there in March, 1853, coming by the Barlow route to Oregon, arriving at Santiam valley, September 22. Although they had several skirmishes with the Indians, no one was injured.

Coming to the Rogue River valley in the spring of 1854, a homestead of 325 acres five miles south of Ashland was taken up, on the creek that bears the Neil name. Indians were very troublesome and the senior Neil helped build a fort at the Thomas Smith, later the Houck place, and there half a dozen families gathered for protection. In the Rogue River Indian war that followed, the elder Neil and his oldest son remained on the farm, the family being sent to Yreka for the duration of the war.

On the Neil homestead, James R. Neil and his brothers grew to manhood. He attended local schools, and finally graduated from the Willamette university in 1863. He studied law under the late

James D. Fay of Jacksonville, one of the brilliant pioneer lawyers of Oregon, and was admitted to the bar in April, 1865, immediately locating in Jacksonville, where he practiced his profession for over half a century.

Judge Neil married to Minnie Helm of Corvallis, October 9, 1865, and served as a staff officer of General John Ross during the Modoc war of 1872. He was elected county judge in 1888 and re-elected in 1892. In 1908 he was a third time elected county judge.

It has been well said that Judge Neil's life was an open book for all who cared to read, and that while he may have erred in judgment, it was not from the heart. His administrations were notably progressive and he won the title of bridge and road builder for the county—having constructed most of its bridges and highways.

From a newspaper clipping...no date, no name of newspaper. Sent to The Historacle with the compliments of Margaret Taylor Behnke of Lakeside, Oregon.

The Taylor family were early residents of the Prospect area. Later, as the family aged, they moved to Ashland. Margaret and her husband Leo Behnke owned a service station on North Main Street near Maple Steet.

BELOIT COLLEGE'S ANNUAL LIST PROVING WHY HISTORY INSTRUCTION IS VITALLY IMPORTANT

Just in case you weren't feeling too old today, this will certainly change things. Each year the staff at Beloit College in Wisconsin puts together a list to try to give the faculty a sense of the mindset of this year's incoming freshmen. Here's this year's list:

The people who are starting college this fall (2001) across the nation were born in 1983.

- They are too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up.
- They do not care who shot J. R. and have no idea who J. R. even is.
- They never heard: "Where's the Beef?", "I'd walk a mile for a Camel", or "de plane Boss, de plane!".
- Their lifetime has always included AIDS.
- The CD was introduced the year they were born.
- They have always had cable.
- Jay Leno has always been on the Tonight Show.
- They never took a swim and thought about Jaws.
- They don't know who Mork was or where he was from.
- Michael Jackson has always been white.
- Bottle caps have always been screw off and plastic.
- They have always had an answering machine.
- They cannot fathom not having a remote control.
- Popcorn has always been cooked in the microwave.
- They can't imagine what hard contact lenses are.
- McDonald's never came in Styrofoam containers.
- They don't have a clue how to use a typewriter.

Do you feel old yet? Pass this on to the other old fogies in your life.

GENEALOGY QUIPS

Shake your family tree and watch the nuts fall!
 I'm searching for myself—have you seen me?
 Genealogists are time unravelers.
 I should have asked them BEFORE they died!
 I think my ancestors had several "Bad heir" days.
 Shh! Be very, very quiet...I'm hunting forebears.
 Genealogists live in the past lane.
 Alright! Everybody out of the gene pool!
 Documentation...The hardest part of genealogy
 My family coat of arms ties at the back...is that normal?
 My family tree is a few branches short! All help appreciated.
 My ancestors must be in a witness protection program!
 My hobby is genealogy, I raise dust bunnies as pets.
 How can one ancestor cause so much TROUBLE?!
 I looked into my family tree and found out I was a sap
 If only people came with pull-down menus and on-line help
 Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem leads to two more!
 It's 2002... Do you know where your G-G-Grandparents are?
 A family reunion is an effective form of birth control.
 A family tree can wither if nobody tends it's roots.
 After 30 days unclaimed ancestors will be adopted.
 Am I the only person up my tree...sure seems like it.
 Any family tree produces some lemons, some nuts, and a few bad apples.
 Ever find an ancestor HANGING from the family tree?
 FLOOR: The place for storing your priceless genealogy records.
 Gene-Allergy: It's a contagious disease but I love it.
 Genealogy is like playing hide and seek: They hide... I seek!
 Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people.
 A pack rat is hard to live with but makes a fine ancestor.
 I want to find ALL of them! So far I only have a few thousand.
 I'm always late. My ancestors arrived on the JUNEflower.
 Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards, as progress.
 Share your knowledge, it is a way to achieve immortality.
 Heredity: Everyone believes in it until their children act like fools!
 It's an unusual family that hath neither a lady of the evening or a thief.
 Snobs talk as if they had begotten their own ancestors!
 Cousins marrying cousins: A non-branching family tree
 Genealogy...will I ever find time to mow the lawn again?
 That's the problem with the gene pool: NO Lifeguards
 I researched my family tree...and apparently I don't exist!

Taken from >^,,^< Kitty's Daily Mews >^,,^<

11/12/02

MsKitty@katscratch.com

<http://www.katscratch.com>

© 1997-2002 Compilation Rights

I'm not stuck, I'm ancestrally challenged.
 A new cousin a day keeps the boredom away.
 "Crazy" is a relative term in my family.
 Many a family tree needs pruning.
 That's strange—half my ancestors are WOMEN!
 I'm not sick, I've just got fading genes.
 Cousins marrying cousins—very tangled roots!
 Always willing to share my ignorance
 Genealogy: Chasing your own tale!



JUNE 13, 1940

The Cavalcade of the Siskiyou, a pageant depicting the settlement of the Siskiyou mountain area, will be staged during the Ashland Fourth of July celebration, July 4-6, and will have a cast of 400. Indian scenes are planned to show the four Indians tribes in the area when Ashland was founded. The main feature of the three-day festival is a huge rodeo, which proved popular last year.

—Medford Mail Tribune

STATE OF JEFFERSON EXPLAINED

NOTE: The following information was secured from the JeffJournal, the official publication of the Internet Service of Jefferson Public Radio, Southern Oregon University., August 2002.

In 1854 a new separate statehood movement began, this time centered in southern Oregon, and variously called by the name "Jackson Territory" and the "State of Jefferson." A proposal to create such a state was actually presented before Congress and the agitation continued until Oregon was granted statehood in 1859. Unlike these serious attempts, efforts to launch Jefferson in the twentieth century have been largely tongue-in-cheek. The major "uprising" came in 1935 when concerns over poor roadways, which hampered the logging, mining and agricultural industries which had grown up in the area, was the major focus.

INDEPENDENCE IS AT HAND

In November, 1941, still aroused by the poor state of highways in the area, a provisional government was elected with Judge I. Childs of Crescent City as governor. The Yreka 20/30 Club printed a Proclamation of Independence and then local citizens, armed with hunting rifles and cheered by their neighbors, erected roadblocks across U.S. Highway 99 and began collecting tolls from travelers who were "crossing the state line."

When a California Highway Patrolman arrived on the scene, he was told to "get back down the road to California." The group created the "Great Seal of the State of Jefferson"—a gold pan with "XX" painted on the bottom, which they said symbolized Jeffersonians being "double-crossed" by their mother states. To highlight their frustrations with poor road conditions, these parties issued a Proclamation of Independence which read:

"You are now entering Jefferson, the 49th State of the Union. Jefferson is now in patriotic rebellion against the states of California and Oregon. This State has seceded from California and Oregon this Thursday, November 27, 1941. Patriotic Jeffersonians intend to secede each Thursday until further notice.

"For the next hundred miles as you drive along Highway 99, you are traveling parallel to the greatest copper belt in the far West, seventy-five miles west of here. The United States government needs this vital mineral. But gross neglect by California and Oregon deprives us of necessary roads to bring out the copper ore. If you don't believe this, drive down the Klamath River highway and see for yourself. Take your chains, shovel and dynamite.

"Until California and Oregon build a road into the copper country, Jefferson, as a defense-minded State, will be forced to rebel each Thursday and act as separate State.
State of Jefferson Citizens Committee. Temporary State Capital, Yreka."

IT'S THE LAW!

In Roseburg, Oregon, an anti-noise ordinance prohibiting the use of cowbells at night is on record. The ordinance, dated January 14, 1889, reads as follows: "An ordinance to prevent the use of bells on cows and other domestic animals in the night time between the hours of 8 o'clock and 6 o'clock in the morning." The ordinance is still on the books unrepealed.

Although early Oregon citizens had a great aversion to speedy traffic and its dangers, noise from locomotives was rather a source of pride than otherwise. This is demonstrated by some of the city ordinances. In July 1873 Oregon City passed an ordinance to compel all conductors and engineers on trains southbound through the city to cause the whistle to be sounded at Abernethy Creek and the bell to be rung all the while the train passed through the city. Northbound trains were required to whistle and to ring the bell at Imperial Mills. No train was permitted to "run or move faster than the rate of four miles per hour while passing through" Oregon City. The town fathers amended this in 1880 to permit passage from Imperial Mills to the Congregational Church at eight miles per hour.

RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

INDIVIDUAL

Bailey, Kurt	Hall, Elizabeth
Bailey, Pat	Holden, Myrna
Berger, Fred	Holdridge, Genevieve
Beveridge, Poppie	Latvala, Jack
Cowley, Joe	Medinger, Ron
Drais, Judi	Ricks, LaVelle
Gibbs, Wanda	Shockley, Sally
Grimes, Alta	Slack, Karl
Dwayne Guthie	Soderback, Helena
Haade, Barbara	Wilson, Bob

INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR

Harris, Katherine

FAMILY

Bagley, Wm. & Janet
 Baylor, Geo. & Colleen
 Clapp, Darrell & Roanne
 Dreiszus, Bob & Annie
 Gleim, Bud & Mary Louise
 Hannon, Lenn & Dixie
 Hunkins, Joe & Kathy Holden
 Morrison, John
 Mussack, Joe & Lorraine
 Smith, Al & Betty

JOHN BEESON HERITAGE SOCIETY

Newbry, Lynn & Charlotte

If you haven't renewed your membership yet for 2002-03, please do so by the end of December, or, we will regretfully remove your name. Please consider also the new membership levels when renewing. They are:

Individual	\$10.00
Individual Sponsor	\$20.00
Family	\$15.00
Family Sponsor	
Business Sponsor	
Heritage Societies	
Eli K. Anderson Society	\$100.00
John Beeson Society	\$250.00
Jacob Wagner Society	\$400.00
A.P. Talent Society	\$500.00
Lifetime Membership	\$1,000.00 (one-time)



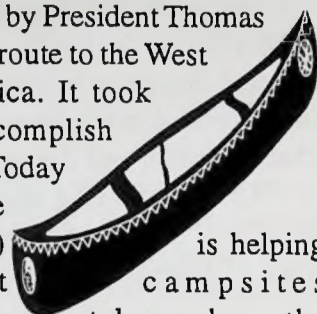
CUT DOWN THE APPLE TREE?

THE LAW SAID NO!

You can understand why there was a law against cutting down apple trees in the early American days, for the one tree provided raw fruit, cider for drinking, apple sauce, dried fruit, and vinegar. Early apple trees were trained to grow low, so pickers did not always have to use ladders. There was once a chair-ladder that could either be stood upon or climbed, and was light enough to carry about. The first ones were rough and not like the well made ladder chair which was a piece of furniture. But from this simple beginning came the design of the ladder back chair. This chair had many uses. Shelves were placed between ladderback rungs, and the candle rack hung over a rung for light. A pole hung between two ladder back chairs, could hold a blanket and serve as a divider to separate the bather, or the sickbed from the rest of the room, and unwanted drafts.

LEWIS & CLARK AND THE SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Nearly 200 years ago, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were sent by President Thomas Jefferson to seek a land route to the West Coast of North America. It took them two years to accomplish landmark expedition. Today the National Space Administration (NASA) is helping scientists locate the lost campsites along the 3700 mile route taken by the explorers between May 1804 and their return in 1806. Archaeologist Ken Karsmizki, who is a curator at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles, Oregon, is being helped by NASA satellite mapping to match sites which can be observed from space with the written records left by the Expedition. Because many of their journal articles were written after "long, grueling days on the trail" they are known to contain a number of unfortunate geographical inaccuracies. NASA, which has used similar mapping techniques in the past to locate roads built by the Pueblo Indians in the Southwest over 1000 years ago, and cities buried under the sand in Arabia, is now seeking the location of the Lewis and Clark campsites.



DOWNSTREAM CALENDAR

Talent Historical Society Museum,
Talent Community Center.

Museum Open hours:

Mon.—Sat. 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

THS Board Meeting, 4th Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at the Talent Public Library

Members and general public invited to attend.

Dec. 17	Jan. 28	Feb. 24
Mar. 25	April 22	May 27
June 24	July 22	Aug. 26
Sept. 23	Oct. 28	Nov. 25
Dec. 23		

JCHMA Meeting, 2nd Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. – Noon. Location varies.

Dec. 12	Jan. 9	Feb. 13
March 13	April 10	May 8
June 12	July 10	Aug. 14



OVERHEARD

This is excerpted from a taped interview with Bob Vogel. Bob was both the milk and the meat inspector for about seventeen years. Joe Cowley, interviewer.

Joe: What do you remember about the blind dairyman here in Talent?

Bob: Tony White?

Joe: Yeah, Tony White.

Bob: He turned out to be a really good friend of mine. When I came down here he had what we called a jug dairy. Officially known as a producer/distributor. Raw milk. He sold it in gallon jugs. He was totally blind and I think he told me it started when he got thrown off a horse when he was a teenager, and injured his neck, or some nerves in his neck or back. It affected his eyesight. He was totally blind, but he knew every cow. I'd go in there and he'd be milking and he'd pat a certain cow on the back and call her by name. He knew each one and he did all the cleanup. He kept his equipment spotless. He later, when the boys got older and most of them left, he gave up the producer/distributor business and shipped to Darigold. It was Mayflower first, then Darigold.

Joe: How could he feel his way around the dairy farm?

Bob: You know, I was there one time, and I usually stopped at the house, I don't know, but that day I just drove out to the milk house to make an inspection. But I guess maybe the reason, he had some dogs that weren't friendly, so I planned it so I would get in the milkhouse before the dogs got out there. He had heard the dogs, I guess. They had a cement walk from the house to the barn and it was probably fifty or seventy-five yards, no railing on it or anything, to guide you. He walked that day or night, you know it didn't make any difference. I saw him coming, so I opened the milkhouse door thinking maybe I'd help him, so he could get in without any problems. When he got to the door, he reached for the handle and of course it wasn't there and I remember he had the most puzzled look on his face because he wondered what had happened to that door. I hadn't said anything, but when I spoke to him he just walked in up the steps just as if he could see as well as I could. I never could understand how a blind man could be that observant, really not observant, but he could sense—how he could walk that walk, without walking off one side or the other of it.

Joe: He didn't have strings in the dairy barn to feel his way around?

Bob: Nothing. Nothing. It was just as though he could see as well as anyone. He knew every cow. I never could understand how he could tell by feeling a cow's back who she was. But he didn't make any mistakes.

TIDBITS FROM THE PAST

Mary Vining, emigrant of 1853, started her own school in a small cabin near present day Talent.

George Hyde, one of two government surveyors to come to Jackson county in 1854, noted that all the steams in the south part of the valley dry up except for Stewart River (now called Bear Creek).

Central Point was 3/4 of a mile east of the railroad track in 1883. Many firms moved to the rail depot area and the residents followed.

JUNE 13, 1940

The Cavalcade of the Siskiyou, a pageant depicting the settlement of the Siskiyou mountain area, will be staged during the Ashland Fourth of July celebration, July 4-6, and will have a cast of 400. Indian scenes are planned to show the four Indians tribes in the area when Ashland was founded. The main feature of the three-day festival is a huge rodeo, which proved popular last year.

—Medford Mail Tribune

EDITORIAL



STRANGE! THIS IS HOW WE GOT OUR SANTA CLAUS!

American Christmas behavior has become, as most observers note, extremely commercialized. This is not exactly unexpected in a society based on free enterprise and capitalism, I suspect. But our Christmas "traditions" come from a variety of strange sources. Consider "Santa Claus" for example. The origin begins with a man called Saint Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, today's Turkey, a man known for charity

and wisdom. Coming from a wealthy family he gave all his money to the poor. Legend says he possessed magical powers. He died in 340 A. D. and was buried in Myra.

In the 11th century Crusaders brought the remains of St. Nicholas to Italy, building a church in his honor at Bari, a port in southern Italy. Christian pilgrims from all over Europe came to visit that church, taking the legend of St. Nicholas back to their homes, which accounts for the varied pattern of legend about him. This is why our Santa Claus is known as Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, St. Nicholas, Sinterklaas, and Pere Noel. Beginning in the next century, St. Nicholas Day became a day marked by charity and gift giving. France, Holland and Germany celebrated December 6 as his day and gave gifts to their children and the poor (Shades of our Christmas and the Salvation Army donation buckets!)

The New York Dutch colonists brought with them their Sinterklaas, wearing a red bishop's costume and riding on a white horse. It is Sinterklaas that evolved into the jolly old elf we call Santa Claus. Washington Irving described him as a plump and jolly Dutchman in his comic History of New York. Then in 1823 the indelible Santa Claus was created in the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas," a poem whose authorship is now contested. Right after the Civil War cartoonist Thomas Nast drew pictures of a plump and kindly Claus for Harper's Weekly, and this image has traveled the world, being now found on all continents.



TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 582 • TALENT, OREGON 97540-9766
(541) 512-8838 • talenthistory@aol.com



Eagle Point Historical Society
P.O. Box 201
Eagle Point, OR 97524